

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 18, and add new Claims 38 and 39 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:

- a) a communication unit having different transfer rates, ~~an isochronous transfer mode, and an asynchronous transfer mode,~~ and adapted to transmit a predetermined packet to destinations ~~by the asynchronous transfer mode~~ using at least one of the different transfer rates until responses from all of the destinations are received; and
- b) a control unit adapted to determine a maximum transfer rate between the apparatus and all of the destinations, based on ~~a response~~ the responses transmitted from each of all of the destinations.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit retransmits the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower than a previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the communication unit transmits data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after determining the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit packetizes data into at least one packet and broadcasts each packet to the destinations.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of data packetized in a packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claims 8 and 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus.

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Claim 15 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID that indicates a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for a communication apparatus that includes a communication unit having different transfer rates, ~~an isochronous transfer mode, and an asynchronous transfer mode;~~ comprising the steps of:

- a) transmitting a predetermined packet to destinations by the ~~asynchronous transfer mode~~ using at least one of the different transfer rates until responses from all of the destinations are received; and
- b) determining a maximum transfer rate between the apparatus and all of the destinations, based on ~~a response~~ the responses transmitted from ~~each of~~ all of the destinations.

Claims 19-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, further

comprising the step of retransmitting the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower than a previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting data to the destinations at the maximum transfer rate after determining the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the transmitting step includes packetizing data into at least one packet and broadcasting each packet to the destinations.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein an amount of data packetized in a packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet is transmitted in a communication that conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

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Claim 36 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the apparatus..

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID indicating a logical connection relationship between the apparatus and the destinations.

Claim 38 (new): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit has an isochronous transfer mode and an asynchronous transfer mode, and is adapted to transmit the predetermined packet to all of the destinations using the asynchronous transfer mode.

Claim 39 (new): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the communication unit has an isochronous transfer mode and an asynchronous transfer mode, and is adapted to transmit the predetermined packet to all of the destinations using the asynchronous transfer mode.